

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

July 04, 2000

Representative Rick Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

I read recently where you have finally jumped into the fray on what has been going on in Libby for over 50 years. I am talking about the independent investigation request initiated by the EPA in regards to what happened in the 1980's with the EPA tremolite asbestos studies at the WR Grace mine in Libby.

I believe if you would do a little research you would find that at the time this study and research was ongoing, J. Peter Grace (WR Grace owner and President) was sitting at the right hand of President Ronald Reagan writing the what was to become known as the Grace Commission. Grace's charge was to develop ideas on how to cut government spending and the streamline government agencies. I don't know how the biggest polluter of communities and lives could have got a better deal from a sitting President. The very gut who had participated in the murder of its' workers and the pollution of communities and rivers was now sitting in the drivers seat telling the Republican Parties most honored President on how to cut costs. Well, the first thing that happened was that funding was cut for the investigative arms of these agencies designed to protect American citizens and communities. A pretty good deal. No funding brings about changes in priorities and emphasis.

Grace was successful in shutting down a study in the early 80's by influencing the President and his agency directors to transfer Dr. Banks. Research will show you that Dr. Banks wanted to come to Libby and start a full blown study and investigation on why lung x-rays were showing abnormal in the Libby Grace mine workers.

All of a sudden Dr. Banks' project was shut down and he was transferred. I think you will also find that J. Peter Grace, working with President Reagan influenced this project shutdown and the transfer of Dr. Banks.

Most of us who have loved ones and family members dead or dying at the hands of WR Grace know what happened in the 80's. Now it is up to you and others to come forth in all honesty and let the rest of the country know how industry had such a compelling influence on an American president. An influence that directly led to the death of so many hard working Americans and the pollution of so many American communities.

I am asking you to not only open-mindedly participate in the independent investigation, but also to ask the appropriate committee chair to hold House and Senate hearings on the matter. I would suggest to you this issue is more important to Americans than if Al Gore's e-mail disappeared by some sinister plot.

I am looking forward to your reply.

Thank you.

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